

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes

Office of Public Instruction
1300 11th Avenue Conference Room, Helena
July 7, 2011

Members in Attendance: Tim Norbeck, Lora Griffin, Bob Stansberry, Christa Seger, Cody Preston, Rena Steyaert, Sharon Tregidga, Jim Marks, Edith McClafferty

Excused Members: Mick Leary, Erica Swanson, Pam Campbell, Dustin Shipman, Vaughn Kauffman, Dave Mahon, Terry Galle

Non-Members in Attendance: Tim Harris, Dick Trerise, Steve York, Sara Casey, Francisco Roman, Doug Doty, Danni McCarthy, Jan Duiker, Karen Crogan, Anne Rainey, Dale Kimmet, Marlene Wallis

Guests in Attendance: Roger Holt, Bobbie Thurston, Stephanie Luehr, Virginia DeLand, Diana Tavary, Andree Larose, T. Booth, Karen Davis, and Tia Davis

Chairperson Tim Norbeck called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

Thursday, July 7, 2011

The Panel reviewed the Proposed Agenda. Rena Steyaert moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Sharon Tregidga seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the Minutes of the May 6-7, 2011, Panel meeting. Jim Marks moved to accept the minutes, Bob Stansberry seconded the motion and the motion passed. The minutes of the May 6-7, 2011, Panel meeting were accepted as written.

Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK)

Roger Holt, Executive Director, Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK), had the PLUK staff, Panel members and non-members introduce themselves and provide background information as to the life road traveled to get to this room and their contributions. Present through SKYPE were Carmen Sanchez, with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in Washington, D.C., and Barbara Buswell in Colorado with the regional technical assistance program for parent centers.

Carmen Sanchez discussed sections of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act that authorized the parent centers and sections of the regulations for the state advisory panels. The areas discussed are highlighted in the Public Law 108-446-108th Congress that is included with the minutes.

Roger told the Panel that PLUK started in Billings in 1984 as a support group. The first grant received in 1986 provided for two staff and a telephone and four regional staff. Today, there are between 15-20 support staff. He said that there are 30,000 families in Montana dealing with a child with a disability.

Parents, Let's Unite for Kids provides one-to-one contact, consultation and support, workshops and training, information and referrals for families, educators, schools, service providers, and professionals.

OPI SPED Report

Dick Trerise informed the Panel that the Response to Intervention (RTI) position was filled by Amy Friez. Amy taught Computer Application and Social Studies at the CR Anderson Middle School, Helena, prior to joining the Special Education staff.

Project REAL

Sara Casey reported on the MBI Summer Institute and the State Personnel Development Grant program, Project REAL (Responsive Education for All Learners). The MBI Summer Institute is scheduled for the third week in June. At this time, 917 participants have registered for the institute; there are 59 presenters.

Project REAL is designed to address the professional development and support needs of instructional personnel in Montana's schools to meet the needs of students who struggle academically and socially. The project is designed to address three goals: Capacity Building; Support to LEAs; and Low-Incidence Support. Anticipated outcomes of this project are improved academic and social outcomes for students with disabilities, support to a statewide network of schools and more effective services for students who need high levels of support.

OPI Report

Steve York presented a PowerPoint titled Measuring Student Aspirations in Your School—Using the My Voice Survey. He noted that the data gathered is useless unless students' perception of reality is measured. Student aspirations include: Self-Worth (belonging, heroes and sense of accomplishment); Active Engagement (fun and excitement, curiosity and creativity, and spirit of adventure; and Purpose (leadership and responsibility, confidence to take action).

The gender of students taking the survey: males 7,487 or 52 percent; females 6,902 or 48 percent; making a total of 14,389. Students planning on going to college: 83.8 percent plan to go to college; 3.3 percent do not plan on going to college; and 12.9 percent were undecided.

My Voice 2011-12 contact is: Steve York, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction, 406-444-4434, E-mail, syork@mt.gov.

The PowerPoint presentation is a part of the minutes.

Presentation to Retiring Panel Members

The following retiring Panel members were presented with plaques in appreciation for their membership on the Montana Special Education Advisory Panel:

Tim Norbeck—Private School Representative

Dave Mahon—Parent of a Child with Disabilities

Dustin Shipman—State/Local Administrator

Rena Steyaert—Representatives of Other State Agencies involved in the Financing or Delivery

of Related Services to Children with Disabilities
Pam Campbell—Representative of Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
Cody Preston—Student Representative

The plaques for Dave Mahon, Dustin Shipman and Pam Campbell will be mailed.

The Panel celebrated Cody Preston's graduation from Helena High School with cake and presented Cody with a gift certificate.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Election of Officers

Sharon Tregidga moved that Vice Chairperson, Christa Seger, be elected as the Chairperson, Edith McClafferty seconded the motion and the motion passed. Christa Seger will serve as the incoming Chairperson for 2011-2012.

Tim Norbeck nominated Bob Stansberry as Vice-Chairperson, Edith McClafferty seconded the nomination and Bob Stansberry was appointed as the Vice-Chairperson by acclamation. Bob Stansberry will serve as the Vice Chairperson for the 2011-2012 school year,

Christa Seger nominated Lora Griffin as Secretary, Erica Swanson seconded the nomination and Lora Griffin was appointed as the Secretary by acclamation. Lora Griffin will serve as Secretary for 2011-2012.

Meeting Dates

September 22-23, 2011

Agenda Items

Orientation
Aftermath of Legislature
Overview of Special Education Projects
CSPD

Adjourn

Bob Stansberry moved to adjourn the meeting, Christa Seger seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.